

Preliminary Amendment
Application no.: 10/502,105

Attorney Docket No.: KRISHNA.TAHIL
Customer No.: 2:88

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1-17 and add new claims 18-20. No new matter is added.

1. (currently amended) A device for filling soluble containers comprising:
- (a) an assembly for orienting capsules;
- (b) an assembly for filling capsules;

wherein said assembly for orienting capsules comprises at least one sheet component for orienting capsules and at least one base component for guiding the oriented capsules there through to a following assembly:

said sheet component comprising at least one first sheet and at least one second sheet; said sheets being set apart and capable of being displaced relatively to each other;

said first sheet comprising a plurality of notches for accommodating the capsules loaded thereto, in coordination with said second sheet;

said second sheet comprising a plurality of notches adapted to substantially orient the capsules into filling position; wherein the assembly for orienting capsules comprises at least one displacement limitation means in at least one of said sheets to limit relative displacement of said first sheet and said second sheet.

2. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1 wherein the displacement limitation means is at least one slot for sliding, in at least a first sheet or in at least a second sheet or in combination thereof.

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3. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said first sheet comprises an opening and closing means having at least a pair of thumb operable tabs in said opening and closing means and to retain said opening and

closing means in a substantially closed position while said opening and closing means is in a non-operated state of the opening closing means.

4. (currently amended) The device according to any foregoing claim 1 wherein the longitudinal axes of at least a substantial number of notches in a first sheet are inclined relative to the length of the opening and closing means.

5. (currently amended) The device according to claim 4, 1, 2 or 3 wherein the longitudinal axes of at least a substantial number of notches in the first sheet are orthogonal to the length of the opening and closing means.

6. (currently amended) The device according to any foregoing claim 1 wherein the first sheet and the second sheet are configured as a sub-assembly and is capable of being used as a change-part in pre-assembled condition.

7. (currently amended) The device according to any foregoing claim 1 wherein the base component comprises at least four locating feet for supporting and locating the assembly for orienting capsules.

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8. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any foregoing claim 1~~ wherein ~~the device~~ the distance between the first sheet and the second sheet is maintained such that the ~~sheet and the~~ capsules sit perfectly within the notches, without jumping off from the ~~sealed~~ notches in position.

9. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any foregoing claim 1~~ wherein the notches of the second sheet comprise[[s]] a first section and a second section wherein the size of the first section and the second section are configured in relation to the size of the capsules ~~and configured as disclosed in table no. 2 accompanying this specification.~~

10. (currently amended) ~~The device according to any of claims 1 to 9 further comprises~~ A device for filling soluble containers comprising:

(a) an assembly for orienting a plurality of capsules;

(b) an assembly for filling capsules;

wherein said assembly for filling capsules comprising[[:]]

a sheet component for holding a portion of capsules and thereby facilitating separation of the body portion and the cap portion of the capsules resulting in separated capsules, and a base component for supporting a portion of the separated capsules;

said sheet component comprising at least a pair of sheets and said each of said sheets having a plurality of holes therein to allow passage of capsules

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therethrough for holding of a portion of each of the capsules for facilitating separation into the body portion and the cap portion wherein at least one of such said sheets is displaceable relative to one or more sheets for effecting gripping of a portion of the sheets of capsules during separation of the body portion and the cap portion of capsules from the body portion said base component comprising a displacement means for effecting relative displacement of said sheets ~~without removing the displacement means~~ without removing the displacement means

11. (currently amended) The device according to claim 10 wherein the displacement means is a cam assembly mounted to the base component such that the sheets are replaceable for filling other size capsules without removing a cam.

12. (currently amended) The device according to ~~claim 10 or claim 11~~ wherein the cam is an eccentric cam having an offset distance of at least 1 mm.

13. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of claims 10 to 12~~ claim 10 wherein the base component comprises a thumb post to facilitate operation of the ~~cam assembly displacement means~~ by an operator's thumb.

14. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any one of claims 10 to 13~~ claim 10 wherein the sheet positioned at a foremost position from the upper side comprises at least eight locating holes for locating an orienter assembly for over encapsulation.

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15. (currently amended) The device according to any one of claims 10 to claim 14 wherein the sheets are adapted to hold the body portion of the capsules in a single plane for enabling separation of the body portion and cap portion of the capsules.

16. (currently amended) The device according to any one of claims 10 to claim 15 wherein the sheets have profile-cut portions and profile-cut strips that are capable of being positioned in a mating relationship with each other to enable gripping the body portion of the capsules in a single plane for enabling separation of the body portion and cap portion of the capsules.

17. (currently amended) The device according to any foregoing claim 1 wherein the assembly for filling capsules further comprises a sheet component for holding a portion of capsules and thereby facilitating separation of a body portion and a cap portion of each of the capsules; and comprising a capsule tray adapted to form a gap to release entrapped air inside the cap portion and thereby avoid popping out of the cap portion of the capsules after separation into the body portion and the cap portion.

18. (new) The device according to claim 10 further comprising a capsule tray adapted to form a gap to release entrapped air inside a plurality of cap portions of the capsules and thereby avoid popping out of the cap portion of the capsules after separation into the body portion and the cap portion.

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19. (new) The device according to claim 10 wherein one of the sheet components is displaced by sliding for enabling the separation of the body portion and cap portion of the capsule.

20. (new) The device according to claim 19 wherein one eccentric head in said cam displaces one of the sheet components by sliding.